

Testimony

SB431

Favorable with Amendment Danielle Baker RN

My name is Danielle Baker and I am a 44-year-old registered nurse. I am testifying today to hopefully help you understand why it is important to vote for this bill favorable with amendment.

I had worked for the same hospice for 17 years even during the Covid pandemic. In 2020, I contracted Covid and after that I had symptoms that had yet to be named, but ended up being Long Covid. I did not know I had long covid until 2021 after having a vaccine reaction when I took the COVID-19 vaccination due to workplace recommendations and eventually mandates.

I had not wanted to take the Covid vaccination and I felt that it had not yet been fully studied and we did not know the devastating, side effects or adverse events that it could have.

As stated above due to the workplace expectations, I did move forward with the vaccination. After my second dose of my only series of Covid vaccination, I became ill and over the next few weeks lost my ability to essentially walk, take care of myself and control of my bodily functions to name just a few things.

Three weeks after my second dose, extensive testing and procedures, I was diagnosed with a disease called Transverse Myelitis. Essentially what had happened to me was my immune system was lowered from contracting workplace Covid that developed into unknown Long Covid setting me up to have a reaction to the vaccination that resulted in my body attacking my spinal cord, rendering me disabled for life. Not only that, but now I am dealing with heart and lung issues also as a result of long covid/vaccine injury, and it has been three years since my initial neurological vaccine injury.

Due to how the compensation systems are set up, I have not been able to secure financial compensation for my injuries that were a direct result of working as a nurse in the Covid environment as well as taking a vaccination for the benefit of my employer. For that very reason, I have had to take my former employer all the way through the court system, and I am now in civil court, attempting to Gain access for financial support for my workplace injury.

It has been a long drawn out process, and we are in financial ruins. I cannot get the medical assistance I need, and our life has plummeted into a living nightmare. I do not

wish anyone to have to go through this as it is devastating not only emotionally, but physically and it's also some thing that my family should not have to endure.

The simple act of voting favorable with amendment and adding vaccine injury to the table for allowable compensation would save so many time, energy, effort, and heartache. When we become an employee for a company, we do so in good faith, assuming that we will be cared for just as much as we care for those that employ us sadly, that is not always the case.

As representatives, it is your duty to ensure that we have the protection that is needed and if anybody's case shows that the protection isn't taken place it's mine. We should not have to have gone to this extent and financial devastation in order to be compensated for illness and injury that took place because of working as an RN. I know I am not the only example of a person that this has happened to.

This is not a political issue. This is a bipartisan issue. This is an issue about taking care of your constituents and ensuring that they have what they need and deserve.

Again, I urge you to vote favorable with amendment, and add vaccine injury onto the table as well .

Danielle Baker, RN

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